

NOVELTY FRAMELESS EYE WEAR FOR PROMOTING SOCIABILITY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Socially active people wear conventional eyeglasses during their everyday activities. However, while swimming or splashing about in the ocean or at a lakeside beach or swimming pool, or vigorously dancing at a party or in a nightclub, conventional eyeglasses with temples can become dislodged. Also, many feel that they are physically less attractive while wearing conventional eyeglasses and would prefer to not wear them during these often physically vigorous activities. However, this results in loss of the ability to see clearly in these types of environments, which can be demoralizing, particularly while attending gatherings where there is an opportunity to socially interact with others.

Thus, there is a need to provide inexpensive novelty eyewear that acts as a conversation piece and that also would enable many people, participating in these types of activities, to leave their conventional eyeglasses at home and yet retain the benefits of wearing them. In addition, after a prescription change, the “old” corrective lenses are discarded, which could otherwise be put to good use. While patent 5,764,338 to Mack discloses a message attached to eyewear for enhancing social interaction, the message is adhesively attached to conventional eyeglasses having temples that can fall off the wearer’s face.

SUMMARY OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with preferred embodiments of the invention, a frameless eye patch, bearing a new or old corrective lens, could be placed over the eye of the participant in the aforesaid types of activities, and the wearer could thus see clearly, or fairly clearly if the “old” corrective lens was used, rather than discarded. The patch has a double sided adhesive, overlapping edge portions of the lens, so that the outer adhesive bearing side of the patch would hold the lens upon the patch and the inner adhesive bearing side would contact the face of the wearer to hold the patch upon his or her face.

During normal everyday activities, such a patch would have an unusual, probably unacceptable appearance, but when used in socializing environments like partying or bathing environments, they become like small carnival masks and attract attention, which is desired for many folks in these environments. Thus, they can act as conversation pieces to help people meet each other. They also are very inexpensive as they can be provided in kits of varying size patches made from thick flexible paper or plastic sheets while optionally, making use of “old” otherwise discarded lenses. They can even be enhanced as conversation pieces by having the wearer print their name, or humorous, “crazy” or provocative messages upon the paper or plastic sheets either by using a pen or by attaching a PC produced label upon the outer peripheral surfaces of the patch. If desired, two patches can cover both eyes to form a pair of “crazy” spectacles. Unlike conventional eyeglasses having frames and temples, they are harder to dislodge by accident from the face of

the wearer during swimming and dancing, and are cheap and easily replaceable.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other features of the invention will become more apparent upon reading the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows a front view of the novelty eye patch;

Figure 2 shows a top view of the eye patch;

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

A double sided adhesive single piece eyeglass patch or lens support segment 1, is used as a novelty device whereby the inside adhesive area 3 adheres the flexible, one piece, paper, cardboard or thin plastic eyeglass patch or optical element support segment sheet 5 to the wearer's face (no temples or straps needed) and the outside adhesive layer 7, surrounds a viewing aperture 9, that can support an optical element, preferably a lens 11, that could be an "old" lens made from an outdated prescription change that would otherwise be thrown away. This product is thus a simple inexpensive substitute for a regular pair of eyeglasses that can be more readily knocked off of the face of bathers by ocean waves and can facilitate diving or splashing in pools. Temples or straps are not needed. The old lens 11 is still good enough for a far-sighted bather, splashing in the ocean or dancing, to see with. The eye patch could also bear comic sayings or flirtatious

conversation piece messages 13 printed by longhand or preferably by a home PC on a strip of paper in turn affixed to an upper portion of outer adhesive surface layer 7. One can easily create customized message labels with a \$79 title printer such as a Casio CD-R. "Hi I'm Alice" could be positioned at 13, or any message such as "Go For It" as shown. This feature could be attractive to youngsters who play on the beach, or party in nightclubs, and socialize with members of the opposite sex. Also, females especially, may not wish to wear conventional eyeglasses while dancing in nightclubs and other flirtatious messages may be adhered to the frames to act as conversation pieces. Thus, the invention can make an attractive, attention getting fad novelty item and could be brightly colored to attract attention. This is in contrast to conventional eyeglasses that many people don't like to wear. Thus a simple, inexpensive novelty item is provided that can use old lenses that are otherwise discarded after prescription change. Since the eye patch has no straps or temples for mounting upon the head of the wearer, it is strapless and templeless providing extreme simplicity.

The worker in the art will appreciate that a low tack adhesive would be employed to facilitate easy attachment and removal of the patch from the wearer's face. See for example, 3M product #9415 mentioned in patent 5,381,190 to Rehese et al. As eyeglass fashions change, the shape of the viewing aperture 9 would be changed to accommodate the changing shapes of the lenses. For example, in 2003, flattened oval shaped lenses are popular which would call for similarly shaped viewing apertures. The patches could be brightly colored to attract attention to this eyewear item that would probably be somewhat ridiculous in everyday environments such as the workplace.

The terms of the following claims are intended to cover variations in the aforesaid embodiments that could occur to the workers in the art, and thus the invention is to be limited solely to the terms of the following claims or equivalents thereof.

What is claimed is: